

The Commonwealth.

E. E. HILLIARD, - - - Editor.
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SALOONS AND PUBLIC SPEAKINGS.

We again call attention to section 1079 of the Code, which says that any saloon-keeper keeping open his saloon within two miles of any public political speaking, is liable to indictment and may be fined twenty dollars or imprisoned twenty days. Now, this is a law on the statute books and was enacted for the good and safety of the people, and it ought to be enforced or repealed. Everybody admits that the broadcast use of intoxicating liquors at any time is dangerous, and it is especially so during times of political excitement when crowds come together and jostle against each other, half out of patience to start with.

The liquor traffic is the overtopping evil of this country, anyway; it impoverishes more homes, takes the initiative in more criminality than any other influence in the land; and with the plain statute against its sale on such days as we have it in our Code, the people are entitled to the protection which the statute furnishes.

The law against opening saloons on election days is enforced; and the voter ought to have his mind as clear when he is reaching his conclusions about how he will vote as when he is casting his vote. Many a voter makes up his mind on the day of public speaking. He needs the protection on that day against the evil influences of the liquor traffic as much as he does on election day; and in many instances riots by reason of the exciting influences of strong drink are just as possible on that day of public political speaking as on election day.

According to the section of the Code which we printed last week and to which we again refer, the saloon-keeper who gives away or sells liquor within two miles of any public political speaking on the day of such speaking, does it at his peril. With the law-abiding citizens of the State see that the law is enforced?

JUDGE NORWOOD AGAIN.

Not long after Judge W. L. Norwood went on the bench as a result of the fusion election in 1894, he disgraced the high office to which he was elected by being drunk and unable to hold court in Robeson county at the appointed time. His condition and conduct at that time were said to be the cause of several hundred dollars unnecessary expense to Robeson county.

This paper laid some tolerably sharp strictures against Judge Norwood then, not because he was a Populist, but because we believed that a man guilty of the conduct charged against him was unworthy to sit in judgment on grave causes which involved the rights and liberties of free-men. We said then that Judge Norwood ought to resign. The State press generally was inclined to criticize a little, but some said give him a chance. He has had his chance, and what is the result? He is still getting drunk and going through the farcical performance of holding court when he is wholly incompetent by reason of his cups, according to the Lenoir Topic.

The Topic criticized Judge Norwood's conduct severely while he was holding Caldwell court, and his Honor summoned the editors to appear before him. When they appeared Judge Norwood said he had slept on his wrath and would therefore not punish the naughty editors of The Topic, though their criticisms were wholly untrue.

The editors of The Topic went out and said again that his conduct grew worse rather than better, and that they were forced to repeat that Judge Norwood is a disgrace to the State.

THE COMMONWEALTH thinks now, as it has all the while thought—that any true man ought to see the criminality of such a course and resign his high office without further disgrace to the State or longer abuse of the confidence of the free voters who honored him with their suffrage.

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The best salve in the world for Cuts, Bruises, Sores, Ulcers, Salt Rheum, Fever Sores, Tetter, Chapped Hands, Chilblains, Corns, and all Skin Eruptions, and positively cures Piles, or no pay required. It is guaranteed to give perfect satisfaction or money refunded. Price 25 cents per box. For sale by E. T. WHITEHEAD & CO.

BEGIN AT HOME.

There is great danger that Democrats will become so engrossed in national interests as regards the money question that they will forget the weightier matters at home.

It is all right to be enthusiastic for silver and the election of Mr. Bryan, but let us remember that there are three points of interest to us in this campaign: they are national, State and county. As it regards the importance to the citizens of Halifax county the order may well be put county, State and national.

The voters and property owners of Halifax county can ill afford to have the management of their affairs turned over to the fusionists and take the chances of a complete revision of the jury list, a different disbursement of county funds and the thousand and one other irregularities that would necessarily result from the success of the fusion ticket.

Then next in importance to the citizens of North Carolina follows the election of the Democratic State ticket. What self-respecting white man, or colored man, is willing to have Dan Russell Governor of North Carolina? His record is such that many of his own party will not vote for him, and yet there is reason for Democrats to be watchful.

Let Democrats be vigilant first at home. Let us take care of our nearest interests and then the State's and then the larger interests outside.

ASK FOR ONE THING AND VOTE FOR ANOTHER.

"The farmers of this country have an idea that they can not live under the gold standard and hold to their property much longer," said a farmer of the county to us at Halifax the day the Populists held their convention and left open two places for Republicans to fill in for the Legislature.

That farmer said further to us that he never rises after the sun and that he is industrious all the time; yet he said his financial condition is growing worse every year. "And there's something wrong," said he.

His conversation inspired us with admiration for his character as a faithful guardian of his family's interest and his manly toil for their support; and we thought him sincere in his utterances about the gold standard.

Perhaps a thousand other farmers in the country could have said what he said; but how inconsistently many of them acted! They went into convention that day and fused with the Republicans and agreed to vote for two Democrats to go to the Legislature; and who does not know that those Republicans will vote for a gold man for the United States Senate?

How can men who declare that under a few more years of gold standard system they will be forced to give up their homes, consistently vote for State legislators who will in turn vote for a gold standard man for the United States Senate? And yet that is what fusion between the Populists and Republicans in the county means.

Do let men be consistent and not ask for one thing and vote for another.

County Commissioners in Session.

The Board of county Commissioners was in regular session Monday. The following accounts were allowed:

C. R. Reid, guarding jail	\$28 00
" " goods	2 25
Bennett Jones, work	30
Dallas Austin, guarding jail	28 00
J. F. Brinkley, copying tax list	68 72
S. J. Clark, notice to registrars	13 80
Emery & Co, goods	3 75
D. C. Renner, guarding jail	28 00
M. H. Clark, for jail	8 50
Bank of Weldon, interest on note	9 50
J. C. Fenner, work	1 00
T. B. Wilcox, guarding jail	28 00
P. C. Milikin, prisoner to jail	1 75
R. N. Stainback, goods	33 25
C. H. B. Howerton, whiskey for co.	1 00
J. N. Brown, goods	5 78
A. H. Green, notices to registrars	4 20
K. E. Kilpatrick, " "	3 60
Emy & Co, goods	15 92
M. H. Clark, pauper to co. home	75
Everett, Waddy Co, books	18 45
Emery & Pierce, goods	9 55
C. W. Dunn, notice to registrars	12 70
J. H. Allsbrook, repairing bridge	18 75
Lat Sanders, " "	8 00
R. G. Reid, jail account	86 55
W. M. Cohen, goods co. home	26 55
John W. Gupton, build. bridge	200 00
W. T. Purnell, inspector jail work	21 25
W. W. Rosser, notice registrars	6 00
C. W. Dunn, conveying prisoner	2 60
Labor at county home	14 50
Dallas Austin, prisoner to jail	5 00
K. E. Kilpatrick, notice to election judges	1 80
J. Frank Brinkley, record. orders	10 80
T. J. Miles, rebate on taxes	5 00
Gus Adams, " "	2 00
W. R. Shaw, work court house	3 10

OTHER MATTERS.

W. M. Crump was authorized to make 72 ballot boxes at \$1.50 each, to be supplied with locks and keys.

W. W. Rosser was allowed until 1st Monday in November to settle his tax list.

G. J. Miles tendered bond as tax collector for 1896 for Littleton and Butterworth townships.

J. B. Brickell tendered bond as tax collector for Weldon township.

Commissioners were allowed their regular accounts.

STRONG WORDS FOR SILVER.

A GREAT SPEECH.

Nominee Claude Kitchin's First.

On Thursday night of last week Mr. Claude Kitchin, nominee from Halifax county for State Senate, addressed the "Zeb Vance" club in Temperance Hall. It was known that this was to be Mr. Kitchin's first political speech, and a large crowd of his friends and admirers turned out to hear this eloquent young champion of free silver. The hall was filled.

Mr. A. McDowell, president of the club, called the meeting to order and in a few brief remarks introduced Mr. Kitchin.

The speaker, as he stepped upon the rostrum and made the first political bow of his life, looked quite youthful and handsome, but before he had spoken many sentences no one thought of his youth but all soon became deeply impressed with his profound knowledge of matters political that engaged the attention of the people throughout this country to-day, and especially the financial question.

Mr. Kitchin's opening sentences were expressive of the occasion that brought him before so many of his friends for the first time in a political capacity.

He said: "Ladies and gentlemen, it is with pleasure and pride that I stand before you for the first time as I do to-night, in the home of my childhood and whole life thus far and among people whom I love more than any people on earth." Mr. Kitchin said that he stood before his audience as he did because the Chicago platform is what it is.

He said that the Democratic party has stood for free and unlimited coinage of silver 16 to 1 for twenty years. Its record shows it except Cleveland's congress of 1893. Secretaries Carlisle, Smith and Herbert were for free silver until they received Cabinet appointments and then they changed.

The Democratic party in Congress voted for silver in 1873, 1877 and 1886. In 1890 the Democratic party in Congress registered the largest vote for silver that was ever registered on any financial question. Ransom and Carlisle stood for silver in the senate. In the House 112 Democrats voted for it and 22 against it, but every Southern Democrat voted for it.

Mr. Kitchin said that the Democratic party's position on silver in 1890 put it in power.

In 1894 because Cleveland's administration had swept silver legislation from the statute books the Democratic party had in Congress a smaller membership than it ever had before.

Mr. Kitchin scored a good hit when he declared in eloquent terms that the Democratic party is now in unison with the great and lamented Zeb Vance. At the name of Vance he was roundly cheered.

"Dare anyone stand beside the grave of Vance," said he, "and say, 'There lies a conspirator?' Dare any one stand beside the grave of Vance and say, 'There lies a traitor?' Dare any one stand beside the grave of Vance and say, 'There lies an anarchist?' I am proud to stand by such an anarchist as Zeb Vance." In thus summing up the history of the party Mr. Kitchin said, "If the past history of the party is right we can demand your vote; if it is not right, we cannot."

He urged that all would lay aside all prejudice in this campaign and learn the bare facts and act upon them.

As to the amount of gold in use as coin he said that if the banks in the cities of New York and Boston were to call in their loans it would take all the gold in the United States and England to pay those loans, and then there would be a deficit of a hundred million dollars. If the mortgages on the farms in the United States had to be paid in gold it would take all the gold in the world to pay them, and it would lack five hundred million dollars being enough to pay them. All the debts in the United States that are payable in gold would take four times as much as every grain of gold that has been dug from the earth in four hundred years, and then lack more gold than is in circulation in all the gold standard countries in the world.

These arguments Mr. Kitchin made to show that there is not enough gold with which to do the business of the country under a gold standard.

As to international conference on bimetalism, Mr. Kitchin declared that they had all been failures. "And they will continue to be failures," said he, "until some nation shall have the manhood to strike out on its own opinions and convictions. England will always say it is to England's interest to keep silver demonetized."

Mr. Kitchin argued very clearly that there can be no 50-cent dollars, but under a system of bimetalism every dollar will be worth 100 cents and a silver dollar will be worth as much as a gold dollar.

As to the flood of silver that the gold people say free coinage will bring upon us, Mr. Kitchin said, "Dig the trench to my gate first. I'm not afraid of being drowned in a flood of silver dollars." He said that if we could coin into money all the silver money in all the lands we would not have more than \$60 per capita, and who could not manage \$60?

Mr. Kitchin closed with an eloquent tribute to W. J. Bryan. He said that

it matters not who brought the issue, Mr. Bryan threw down the gauntlet in Congress in 1893 and asked the gold men to take it up. He said that in that Congress Mr. Bryan prayed that God might raise up another Andrew Jackson who should free the people of this country from the thrall of the money power; "and," said he, "it seems that God has raised up the Jackson in the person of Bryan himself."

Mr. Kitchin spoke an hour and ten minutes, and no brief account as this can half do justice to it. No man has ever addressed a Scotland Neck audience who was flattered with better attention than was Mr. Kitchin. His great speech showed thorough acquaintance with the financial question, profound research in the matter of finance; and had the speech been delivered in New York or Boston where the great daily newspapers could have reported it in full, Mr. Kitchin would have been known the next day as one of the strongest young champions of free silver, and his name would have been given to the country as suddenly and perhaps with as much promise as was the name of Henry W. Grady for his great speech in Boston.

Every one said that it was astonishingly strong for one so young, and all who heard him were proud that Scotland Neck can present to the political arena a young man so learned in the questions that so much interest the people of the whole nation.

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C. T. LEWIS.

Paris, Tenn., January 25, 1896.

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NORFOLK MARKET.

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NORFOLK, VA., Oct. 7, 1896.

COTTON FIRM.

Good Middling..... 84
St. Middling..... 84
S. L. Middling..... 84
Middling..... 84

PEANUTS QUIET.

Fancy..... 24
Std. Prime..... 24
Prime..... 24
Spanish..... \$1.20
B. E. Peas per bag \$2.50.
Beans per doz..... 76

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